United Nations E/AC.51/2006/L.4/Add.24

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
6 September 2006

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 22
Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 17th meeting, on 28 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 22)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support and appreciation were expressed for the important and invaluable role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the delivery of emergency humanitarian relief and assistance. It was emphasized that humanitarian assistance was an important area where the United Nations played a critical role, as evidenced in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Appreciation was expressed for the United Nations role in providing emergency relief and assistance to the victims of disasters, especially the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

4. It was emphasized that coordination within and outside the United Nations system was important, in terms of both actions and resources, for effective and timely response to humanitarian emergencies. The view was expressed that effective

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coordination among the United Nations system organizations, international organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national authorities, the donor community and the private sector was important not only to ensure coherent, coordinated and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, but also to avoid duplication of efforts, overlapping and competition for resources among providers of humanitarian assistance. Concern was expressed that coordination efforts to deal with disasters were inadequate, and support was expressed for the further strengthening of the coordination role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

5. It was pointed out that concerted action was required on the part of all stakeholders to address humanitarian disasters wherever they occurred. It was emphasized that early warning, contingency planning and proactive measures were vital for timely response to disasters. Views were expressed in support of national Governments' efforts in providing humanitarian assistance. The view was also expressed that the capacity of disaster-prone countries to deal with disasters should be strengthened. It was observed that impartiality was important in the provision of humanitarian assistance and should be respected.

6. The establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund was welcomed, and the hope was expressed that its resources would augment and maximize the resources made available for humanitarian assistance.

7. Concern was expressed that a vast majority of the activities of the Office were funded from voluntary contributions. It was observed that the financial base of the Office needed augmentation from alternative sources of funding.

8. It was observed that the terms "emergency" and "recovery" should be clarified.

9. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 22.2

In the first sentence of the paragraph, after the words "natural disaster", insert the word "risk".

Replace the last sentence of the paragraph with the following: "Within the United Nations system, the principal responsibility for the coordination and promotion of disaster risk reduction activities resides with the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, while responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy resides with the United Nations system organizations in accordance with their respective mandates."

Subprogramme 1
Policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments

At the end of expected accomplishment (c), insert the words "upon the requests of national Governments".

Indicators of achievement

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (c) (i) with the following: "The number of resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators trained in the application of guidelines on the protection of civilians".

Strategy

Paragraph 22.4

Replace the words "humanitarian principles, including those recognized in resolution 46/182" with the words "guiding principles as contained in the annex to resolution 46/182".

Paragraph 22.6

In the first sentence, replace the word "Branch" with the words "Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs".

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

Expected accomplishments

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the words "mainstreaming a gender perspective" with the words "addressing the special needs of women and children".

In expected accomplishment (e), replace the word "emerging" with the word "new".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a), before the words "coordination mechanisms" insert the words "effective resource"; delete the words "including the deployment of humanitarian coordination personnel in the field at the onset of an emergency, within five days".

In indicator of achievement (c), after the words, "needs of women", insert the words "and children".

At the end of the indicator of achievement (d) (i), insert the words ", in particular the Secretary-General's note of guidance on integrated missions dated 9 February 2006".

Add a new indicator of achievement (e) (iii), reading: "Agreed priority needs and programmes funded through CERF in a timely manner".

In indicator of achievement (f), after the words "International assistance", insert the words "as well as efficient coordination of international relief efforts".

Strategy

Paragraph 22.8

At the end of the paragraph, replace the words "principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, as contained in resolution 46/182" with the words "guiding principles as contained in the annex to resolution 46/182".

Paragraph 22.9

At the end of the paragraph, insert the words "as a basis to further improve the process of designing relevant emergency response programmes, policies and guidance".

Subprogramme 3
Natural disaster reduction

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "reduce" with the words "provide leadership and build partnerships in reducing".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii), reading: "Number of countries with effective and functioning national coordination mechanisms in place".

At the end of indicator of achievement (c) (i), insert the words "and other relevant stakeholders".

Replace the text of indicator of achievement (d) with the following: "Global amount of disaster risk reduction activities financed by all relevant stakeholders."

Subprogramme 4
Emergency support services

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c), replace the words "every major disaster" with the word "disasters".

Subprogramme 5
Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement as (b) (iii), reading: "Increased use of inter-agency early warning/early action mechanisms resulting in an increase in the number of United Nations country team contingency plans for humanitarian emergencies".